Allandale Neighbor

August 2014
Vol 29, Issue 4

Distributed to more than 4,500 homes by the Allandale Neighborhood Association

Allandale's 55th Annual Fourth of July Parade Prize Winners

Kata Carbone

Allandale's Fourth of July Parade is a memory maker, thanks to our awesome participants, volunteers, and judges. Three cheers to all who were part of the Fourth of July Parade—you symbolize the spirit of Allandale! All parade prizes were donated by our equally awesome neighborhood merchants. Next time we patronize them, let's make it a point to say, "Thanks for supporting Allandale's Fourth of July Parade!"

Continued on pages 12-13

ALLANDALE'S 55TH ANNUAL
4TH OF JULY PARADE

Special thanks to our generous prize donors!

Chaparral Ice	Sap's Fine Thai Cuisine
Elevation Burger	Shoal Creek Nursery
Genie Car Wash	Tärka Indian Kitchen
Go Dance Studio	Terra Toys
Hey Cupcake!	The Egg and I
Lofty Dog	Tiny Pies
Mighty Bird	Which Wich
Pinthouse Pizza	Yogurtland

Table of Contents:

President's Letter 2
Home Brewing in Allandale 7
Real Estate Round Up: Property Taxes 8
Gullett Good News 9
Neighbor Spotlight: Strong Future Ahead for McCallum Football Thanks to Allandale Youth 10
Rover Ants 11
Our Social Allandale 14
Neighborhood Watch 16
Dog Talk: Brain Tumors– Maybe Not! Also, Updated Info about Leptospirosis Vaccine 18
Allandale Gardener: Planning for Fall (and Cooler Weather) 23

Status Report: ANA's Legal Debt is Shrinking

Kata Carbone

At the end of 2013, we reported that the Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) still owed nearly $25,000 from the 2007 lawsuit against a Walmart supercenter at Northcross Mall. Since then, a good bit of progress has been made toward discharging the debt.

We asked our attorneys to consider reducing our debt. They agreed to waive the balance if we repay $15,000 in three installments by the end of 2015. That's a

Continued on page 23

Austin Nears Its Big Bang City Council Election

Steven Zettner

The City of Austin on November 4 will hold its biggest City Council election in history, and probably in our lifetime. Prior to this election, there were only seven at-large seats, and the terms were

Continued on page 23

Membership Dues Update

David Mintz

Allandale is one of the most dynamic and beautiful neighborhoods in Austin. Your membership enabled us to accomplish much this year. Join or renew now and get the rest of the year free. Just of the few of the things we have done include:

Continued on page 3

ANA General Membership Meeting

Come One, Come All!

Sept. 3, 7:00 p.m.

Northwest Rec Center, 2913 Northland Drive

The Allandale Neighbor
is published bimonthly by the
Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA)

www.allandaleneighbor.com

EDITOR Laura Beck
ADVERTISING Cathy Savage, 348-8237
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com
LAYOUT, DESIGN Cathy Savage
PRINTER Worley Printing

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR ADVERTISERS AND CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

CONTACT INFORMATION
Allandale Neighbor,
PO Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766-1886
allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

ANA Executive Committee

PRESIDENT David Mintz
VICE PRESIDENT Kata Carbone
TREASURER Caroline Reynolds
SECRETARY Jeff Marshall
BOARD MEMBERS Bryan Glass, Laura Beck, Naji Nodor, Steve Neel, Cynthia Pryor, Laura Slaughter and Nathan Vassar
Donna Beth McCormick is the Immediate Past President.

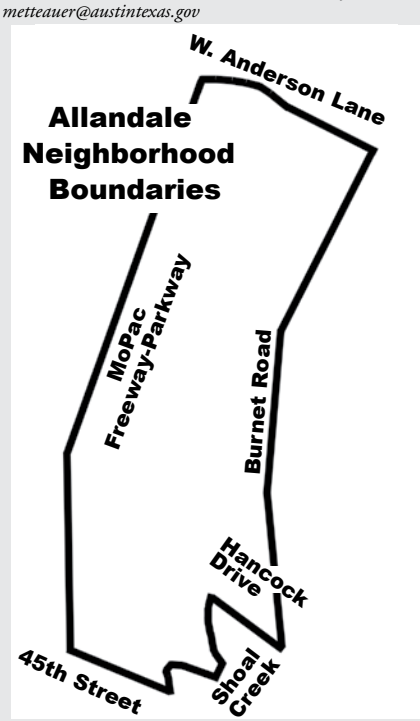
ANA General Meetings are held March and September on the first Wednesday of the month at NW Rec Center.

Committees

BYLAWS Kata Carbone
COMMUNICATIONS Laura Beck
FINANCE Caroline Reynolds
MEMBERSHIP Jeff Marshall
NOMINATING Kata Carbone
SAFETY Laura DiCarlo
ZONING AND PLANNING Nathan Vassar

Allandale Police District Rep.

APD Region 1 District Rep (serves Allandale north of Hancock): Ofc. Jud Chapman, 974-4705, *judson.chapman@austintexas.gov*
APD Region 2 District Rep (serves Allandale south of Hancock): Ofc. Josh Metteauer, 974-8124, *joshua.metteauer@austintexas.gov*



President's Letter

David Mintz

Some parting thoughts.

I'm outta here. No, we're not leaving the neighborhood. My wife and I have owned our house going on 25 years and I seriously doubt I'll live anywhere else in Austin. However, after spending the last two years as ANA's president, my term is over and it's time to move on.

It has been a busy couple of years. In addition to ANA's ongoing activities, such as the Block Watch program and the annual Fourth of July parade, we've tackled a number of issues such as limiting the impact of proposed late night bars in the neighborhood, fighting irresponsible development, opposing commercial development encroaching on residential homes and working with the Brentwood neighborhood association to get a stoplight installed at the intersection of Burnet Road and Shoalmont/Adams. We've also made great strides in reducing the legal debt left over from when ANA fought the redevelopment of Northcross Mall, as well as improving our communications by starting a Facebook page and increasing newsletter distribution to every home and business in the neighborhood.

For all the positive things that the neighborhood association has accomplished, there are many challenges ahead. The city's rewrite of the Land Development Code through the Code Next process will overhaul the entire zoning process. At the same time, the City is starting the corridor study for Burnet Road and Anderson Lane that will help shape future development along two of the most major streets in our area.

Of course, in November we will be electing council members under single member districts for the first time. We are lucky to have a very strong field of qualified candidates running to represent our area. Having a representative who knows our area and drives down the same roads you do every day will hopefully mean stronger representation on issues affecting our neighborhood at city hall. If you haven't already seen it, check out *www.austitndistrict7.org* and make plans to attend the candidate forum in September:

Lower District 7 Neighborhoods City Council Candidate Forum
September 26 from 6:30-8:30 pm
St. Louis Church, 7601 Burnet Rd.

We also continue to see teardowns and redevelopment of homes in the neighborhood. Done well, these projects are wonderful additions to the neighborhood, but we always have to be vigilant about those irresponsible developers who are more interested in short term financial gain rather than long-term neighborhood preservation.

In closing, I'm reminded of a favorite quote by Rabbi Tarfon: "You are not required to complete the work, but neither are you free to abstain from it." There's still so much that needs to be done to help keep our neighborhood such a special place. If you haven't already, please find some way that you can contribute to the neighborhood, whether by joining or renewing your membership, volunteering on a committee, stepping up to help out on an issue that needs to be addressed, or just getting to know your neighbors better.

Thanks to all of the volunteers who serve as neighborhood block captains, clean up graffiti, serve as judges at the Fourth of July parade, help put this newsletter together, and have served on ANA committees. Working together, I'm proud of what we've accomplished.

See you around the neighborhood,
Dave Mintz

The *Allandale Neighbor* is published and distributed bimonthly by the ANA. Contact our ad coordinator at 512-348-8237 or *allandaleneighbor@gmail.com* for more information.

Your Ad	Size	One time rate
Full Page	7½ x 9¾"	$320
1/2 Page	7½ x 5	$225
1/4 Page	3⅝ x 4½	$116
Business Card	3⅝ x 2	$72

We prefer digital files, at least 300 pixels (TIFF or PDF best). We can create or alter your ad for a nominal charge. For an additional $60 we will create an online ad to place on the Allandale web site: *www.allandaleneighbor.com.*

Membership Dues Update

Continued from front page

- Protecting property values by working on zoning issues affecting the quality of life in Allandale and our surrounding area, such as the proposed development at 45th and Bull Creek; standing up to developers who wanted to re-subdivide lots in violation of neighborhood deed restrictions; fighting commercial establishments encroaching on single family homes; and having a voice in the requite of the Land Development Code;
- Mitigating the impact of proposed late night bars in the neighborhood by fighting for reasonable operating hours, limiting noise and ensuring that affected homeowners have parking;
- Helping prevent crime through one of the city's most active crime watch program and volunteers who help cover graffiti; and
- Promoting neighborhood events, such as the annual Fourth of July parade, National Night Out and the annual tree pruning and maintenance work shop.

We're proud of what we've accomplished and could not have done it without your support.

ANA faces many challenges over the next year, particularly with so much development activity in our area.

Membership in ANA runs from January 1 through December 31 but if you join now you'll get the rest of 2014 for free and all of 2015. ❖

Austin Nears Its Big Bang City Council Election

Continued from front page

staggered to prevent every seat being in contention simultaneously. After this election, half the new district-serving Council members will face re-election in two years, and the other half in four years. Also, many of those elections will involve newly-minted incumbents, so there may be fewer viable contenders.

In 2014, however, every seat is in play and every seat has multiple viable candidates. It's a democratic Big Bang. But any given voter will only have two races to consider– the mayor's race, and the Council member for their district. With 10-1, you've got just two eggs in the basket for representation on Council, so you'd better make the most of it.

A sliver of southwest Allandale is in District 10, but most residents are in District 7. This article covers the District 7 candidates. A great deal more information is available at AustinDistrict7.org. Email editor@austindistrict7.org to get election stories delivered by email. Also email to sponsor a District 7 yard sign ($3) to raise awareness of the election and of our news service.

Finally, mark your calendar for the Lower District 7 Neighborhoods Forum on Friday, September 26. Meet the candidates from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. The forum is from 7:00 to 8:30.

The District 7 candidates are:

Jeb Boyt. An Allandale resident since 1995, Boyt has worked for years in state agen-

Continued on page 4

416 BAR & GRILLE
COMING SOON
AMERICANA CUISINE IN THE HEART OF AUSTIN
FAMILY OWNED NEIGHBORHOOD BAR & GRILLE
PLENTY OF PARKING IN REAR
5011 Burnet Road, Suite 150 | Austin, TX 78756
www.416barandgrille.com | 512-230-8222

realty austin
make the move.™

i know allandale

I live here. I work here. I run here. I love to participate in our wonderful neighborhood.

Contact me to find out about your neighborhood credit!

Call Ruth E. Powers to get the true value of your home for a quick and efficient sale.

Ruth E. Powers
REALTOR®, ABR, MBA
512.964.3434
ruth@realtyaustin.com

www.RuthEPowers.com

Austin Nears Its Big Bang City Council Election

Continued from page 3

cies as a land use attorney, including service as general counsel to various state boards. He has served on the City of Austin Parks Commission, the Downtown Commission, and the 2012 Bond Advisory Task Force. He is an advocate of creek hike-and-bike trails and land conservation efforts to protect water quality. Boyt's top issues are government accountability, housing affordability, public transportation, and open space. Boyt is this election's clear urbanist choice– a champion of Imagine Austin's compact and connected walkable vision for the city.

Ed English. English is the lone District 7 candidate from north of 183, having lived 31 years in Milwood. He is a retired sales and marketing professional. His calling card achievement is the 10-1 Council system itself– English was deeply involved in the Austinites for Geographic Representation (AGR) effort to get the 10-1 system approved in a 2012 referendum. English describes himself as a fiscal conservative and social liberal. He prioritizes short-term affordability through modest homeowner exemptions and utility rate relief, responsiveness to local constituents, and transportation solutions both for roads and transit based on the criterion of congestion relief. He proposes directing most new growth away from established neighborhoods, but supports more zoning of apartments in some places.

Josiah Ingalls. Ingalls runs a landscaping service and is a recent resident of the Wooten neighborhood. This is his third Council election.He would focus on cleaning up Austin's laws and regulations to make them consistent and therefore more effective. He is a fiscal hawk, preferring to pay down bonds before undertaking new major initiatives like urban rail. Like most candidates, he supports modest growth that doesn't fuel gentrification.

Jimmy Paver. Born in Austin and raised in Allandale, Paver worked for several years as a campaign and local office manager for U.S. Congressman Lloyd Doggett. He served one session as State Representative Mark Strama's legislative director. He has a degree from the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Paver says he can tackle a 1400-page city budget and find ways to cut waste. He would leverage state and federal contacts to bring more outside funding to transportation projects. Paver would support modest growth that doesn't undermine neighborhoods. He would target cost savings towards tax relief for those who need it most. He has worked for his parents' daycare chain, Stepping Stone Schools, and supports small business. He supports rail to reduce congestion and says a second line should be added fairly quickly.

Leslie Pool. Pool moved to Austin in 1980 and raised a family here. Since the 1990s she has served on numerous city boards and commissions. She touts endorsements from neighborhood leaders Laura Morrison and Brigid Shea. Most recently she served on the 2012 Bond Advisory Task Force and was involved in a community-led effort to revise the

STEVE'S PLUMBING REPAIR

sewer & drain service • fiber optic drain line inspections • free estimates • satisfaction guaranteed

Steve Brougher
Master License M-39722
276-7476
2605 Buell Avenue

MEMBER BBB 2001
MasterCard
VISA

state's proposal to redevelop the Bull Creek property near Shoal Creek and 45th Street. Pool says she is running "a quality of life campaign." Pool supports retaining compatibility standards and respecting neighborhood plans. She sees a place for new housing if integrated respectfully. She supports rail, transit, bikes, sidewalks and roads. She would end corporate subsidies and reform taxes to improve affordability.

Pete Salazar. Salazar spent his early childhood in Crestview. His grandfather was an early employee at the Allandale HEB. His focus is Austin's fast-eroding working class. As an employment placement specialist, he has worked at several area non-profits (Goodwill, Caritas), specializing in the homeless and veterans. Through this work, he also has a strong appreciation for local businesses. His transportation plan emphasizes expanded, more accessible bus service. Salazar is not opposed to "responsible growth" that is respectful of existing communities.

Melissa Zone. An urban planner with Travis County, responsible for watershed and transportation, Zone has been active in Crestview's effort to get a park. She has made quality of life for long-time residents her top priority. She says that she is the only candidate with real experience implementing a corridor plan. Zone supports protecting single family housing and is concerned about the corrosive impact of too much large-apartment-style housing in established areas. She proposes to direct more mixed use growth to far north Austin, and transfer more of the cost of growth to developers. The intent would be to improve affordability by cutting bond requirements. She supports rail but opposes the mayor's proposed Highland route.

LOWER DISTRICT 7 NEIGHBORHOODS CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATE FORUM

September 26 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm
St. Louis Church, 7601 Burnet Rd
More at: www.austindistrict7.org

Where the Candidates Stand On the Upcoming Burnet-Anderson Planning Process

The City recently began work on a land use plan for Burnet Road and Anderson Lane. Growth is already happening– over 250 acres along the corridors were previously zoned for new housing, representing long-term capacity for 15,000-20,000 future residents. The planning process may lead to changes in this capacity, in the type of housing allowed, and in the infrastructure planned to support it. The results will greatly influence the physical and cultural character of Allandale in the coming decades.

Most candidates support some variation of "responsible growth," meaning that some growth along corridors is to be expected but it should be done in a way to protect quality of life. All candidates say they support local businesses on the corridor. What these positions mean in practice varies, as does a candidate's preference for investing in transit-oriented and walkable infrastructure that lowers risk of a long-term congestion melt-down, versus tightening the city's belt to improve cost of living for today's residents.

For more on candidate positions relevant to the upcoming Burnet and Anderson corridor planning processes, go to http://austindistrict7.org/candidate-positions-and-the-burnet-corridor-plan/

For more information on candidates, go to http://austindistrict7.org/candidates/

Don't mess with taxes!

For professional tax planning and return preparation, call
DONALD R. GREENSPAN
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT
459-1803
4901 Spicewood Springs Rd
Suite 200
greenspancpaaustin.com

Henderson Plumbing
452-5963
- Licensed plumbing repair
- Clean, personal service
- 29 years experience
- Drain cleaning

452-5963
Leave message

Redeemer Lutheran Church
Looking for a Place to Belong?
Sunday School • Missions • Senior Adult Groups
Hispanic Ministry • Music Ministry • Youth Groups
Small Groups • Mens Groups • Womens Groups
Community Outreach • Early Childhood Care
School K-8 • 4 WORSHIP SERVICES WEEKLY
www.Redeemer.net
1500 W. Anderson Lane • Austin
512-459-1500

Burnet Road SELF STORAGE
Storage - Boat & RV Storage - Packing Supplies
KATHY L. HALL
Manager
6400 Burnet Road
Austin, Texas 78757
info@burnet-road-storage.com
www.burnet-road-storage.com
ph: 512.453.6302
fax: 512.453.2936

WELCOME

Capitol Bingo

512-452-2646

5310 Burnet Rd – Next to Dollar Tree

www.AustinCapitolBingo.com

Allandale's Daytime Bingo Hall

Mon-Fri – Doors Open 10:00am
Balls Drop 12:00 & 1:30

Sat – Doors Open 9:30am
Balls Drop 11:30 & 1:00 & 2:30

Sun – Doors Open 12:00 noon
Balls Drop 2:00 & 3:30

Saturday August 16th
Gift Card Give-Away
Free BBQ Sandwiches

Bring this ad in for a
Fabulous New Player
Gift Pack!

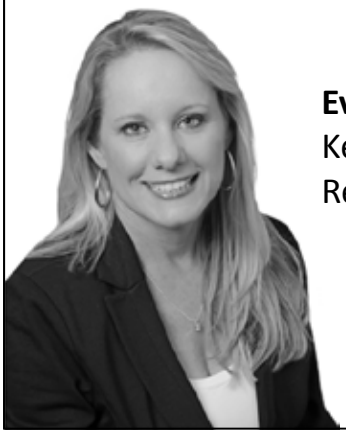
Last year we gave away $ 2.2 Million in Prizes!!

Manor Volunteer Fire Department • Heart of the Rock Civilian Club. INC
Holy Cross Catholic Church • Knights of Columbus #5967 • Human Potential Center

It's still a SELLERS MARKET

Let me list your home and get it SOLD!

512.657.5264



Evie Ellis, GRI
Keller Williams Realty

For FREE access to all Homes in the MLS
Download my mobile app:
http://app.kw.com/KWDVPJ5

Home Brewing in Allandale

Tom Linehan

It is a Saturday afternoon in the middle of the summer. You've finished watching another major league baseball game. You get up from your recliner, brush off the Cheetos dust, take the last swallow of your Budweiser, start to stretch and ask yourself, now what?

Have you considered becoming a home brewer?

Brewing beer is a simple process. You heat up grains in water to extract the sugars and flavors from the grain, add hops to the mix, get it boiling for an hour, cool it down, add yeast and let it ferment for a couple of weeks. Once the fermentation is finished, keg or bottle and refrigerate. That is it. You will surprise yourself how good you can get at it.

As a home brewer, I can attest that it's a fun, enjoyable hobby that produces a tasty beverage to share with friends and family. And there are a number of your neighbors doing it who can offer advice. I checked in with a few of them to get their insights.

Naturally, you will need the proper equipment and there are a number of variables to control for, but the business of homebrewing has been around awhile and the easy way to get started is to go to the local homebrew store and get a starter kit.

Donovan Miller, on Yellowpine, said he has been brewing for three years. He cultivated an interest in it after observing his friend's passion for the hobby over the years. "There is a pureness to taking raw ingredients and creating a really fresh and high quality beer that exemplifies my individual taste," he said. Donovan started out bottling his homebrew but switched to kegging after a few batches to save time. Although there are a number of online home brew suppliers, he purchases his home brew supplies from Austin Homebrew. "Keep it local," he says. The staff at Austin Homebrew are "very supportive, always ready to answer questions/provide guidance in store, over the phone or via email!" Donovan's style preference is IPAs. He also does seasonal brews (Pumpkin porter, Winter Ales, etc).

For us homebrewers, it would be nice if we all had a swimming pool to cool off the wort after the boil is completed. That is how Randall Wimbish on Shoal Creek Blvd does it. A more common way of cooling the wort is to use a wort chiller, a copper coil placed in the pot with cold water running through it. It is critical to get the temperature low enough to avoid killing off the yeast that you will add to the batch to kick off the fermentation process. Randall has been brewing since the 1990s. It started out with a Mr. Beer Kit and has evolved to an all-grain brewing process where he relies solely on extracting the sugars and flavors from the grain. A simpler way is to substitute malt extract. "Back then," Randall says, "I was only using malt extracts with a small amount of grain in a tea type bag called 'mini mash kits.' I was bottling the beer and carbonating in the bottle with the bottling sugar." Like Donovan, he changed over to a kegging system. "Home brewing is just a stress relieving hobby for me," Randall says. When he doesn't have beer in his keg, he goes to the Growler Room on Burnet Road which has plenty of local craft beer on tap to fill your growler.

Randall Wimbish, Steven Mullins, and Tom Linehan

Donovan, son Caden, and Wendy and Nick Salome

Steven Mullins on West Terrace is a seasonal brewer. He has been brewing since 2005 but is mostly a fall/winter brewer. He got into it with a buddy who was given a starter kit for his wedding. Unlike Randall and Donovan, he bottles his beer, making it easier to take places and give to friends. Like Donovan, he shops at Austin Homebrew for his supplies. When asked how his brewing has changed over time, Steven says "you just get smarter, more efficient and cleaner with each batch." Steven's preferred style is an IPA. With regard to recommendations for new brewers, Steven says, "Get a good quality starter kit and do things the simple way to get going." If you are going to bottle your beer, "collect good quality pop-cap beer bottles. One of my favorite tricks is using the dishwasher in its hottest mode to sanitize the bottles and blast their labels off."

Experienced homebrewers in Allandale should consider participating in the Austin Homebrew Festival. Wendy Salome, and her husband Nick, a former homebrewer himself, on Pembrook Trail put on the Austin Homebrew Festival every year, a celebration of home brewing that is also a fundraiser for their children's school, AHB Community School. This year's event takes place Saturday, November 15, from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. at the Getaway Motor Club in East Austin. The Festival has put a call out to homebrewers. If you are a homebrewer, it's your chance to find out how you measure up with other homebrewers around Austin. And if you are curious about homebrewing, this is a great opportunity to talk to folks like Donovan and sample their beers.

Have you been thinking about getting into homebrewing? I suggest taking Donovan's advice: "Get off the sidelines and jump in with both feet!" he says. "It is very satisfying to drink something you created and best of all is to share that with others that both enjoy and appreciate your hard work!" What are you waiting for? ❖

Real Estate Round-up: Property Taxes

Debbie Trominski

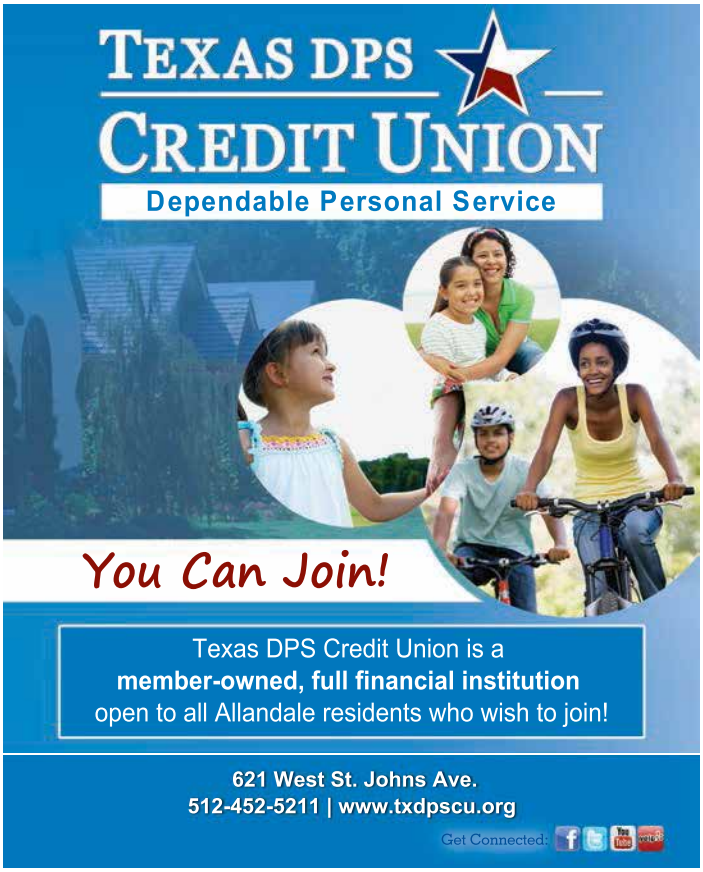
Nearly nine years ago my husband and I decided to move to Allandale from the east side since we wanted some more space to expand our family. Because I'm a realtor, Allandale was a no-brainer for us. I knew this neighborhood was a gem and likely to become increasingly coveted as Austin expanded. With its larger homes, generous lots, two-car garages (heaven!), great schools, central location and affordable prices, Allandale offered everything that we wanted. And this neighborhood has not disappointed us; however, the affordability aspect that we found to be true nine years ago could be up for debate in today's market.

You've probably seen the headlines about how Austin's real estate market has been red hot for the past couple of years. With the city's population growth and lack of housing inventory, prices have been surging. Allandale has surely seen its share of price increases. Congratulations! Since last summer you have increased your equity by an average of 10% simply by owning a home in a very desirable neighborhood in one of the brightest spots our great country. Year to date, the average sales price of homes sold in the readership area is $489,000 and the average size of these homes is 1880 square feet with three bedrooms and two baths.

Since we live in a world of duality, there is a somber side to the appreciation in the market value of our homes– property taxes. Some homeowners in the area have seen an increase in the appraisal district's appraised value of their homes to the tune of nearly $100,000 since last year. First and foremost, your best line of protection from massive tax increases is to file your Homestead Exemption. The Homestead Exemption puts a cap on your taxes so that the property value that you pay taxes on cannot increase by more than 10% from one year to the next. This cap is known as the assessed value. The Travis County Central Appraisal District's website (TravisCAD.org) will let you look up the county's valuation of your home as well as view whether your Homestead Exemption is in place. The exemption only needs to be filed once and will remain with your home for the duration of your ownership. If you need help in filing your exemption you can refer to the Travis CAD website or else ask your favorite realtor for guidance.

Even if Travis County has increased its opinion of your home's appraised value, you have the right to protest their valuation and possibly get it reduced. Although the window of opportunity to file a protest for the 2014 proposed value is closed, you will have the opportunity to file again next spring for the 2015 tax bill– keep an eye on your mail for a letter from the appraisal district.

When you file a protest of your property's tax value, you will be given the opportunity for both an informal and a formal hearing where you can plead your case to get your tax valuation reduced. I recommend that you opt for the informal hearing rather than the formal one. It's a much more relaxed environment and you will be discussing your case one-on-one rather than attempting to persuade a panel of several people. The Travis CAD employees are pleasant, professional and helpful. In my experience, I have found



them willing to genuinely try to get my valuation down as low as they can within the confines of their processes and protocol. They understand that their valuation of your home is based on a mass valuation and there is certainly tweaking and fine tuning to be done for individual properties.

If you do go in for a protest meeting, either informal or formal, it is in your best interest to bring information with you that will help you make your case. The best information you can arm yourself with is recent sales comps. The county will consider the sales prices of homes in your size and location range that sold between January 1 of the previous year and February 28 of the current year (in this case, January 1, 2013, through February 28, 2014). Ask your favorite realtor to help you pull this information together since it is realtors who have direct access to this data. I believe it's worth the effort to protest your taxes if you feel they are too high; the time invested is small and the result could save you hundreds of dollars. ❖

One Happy Customer at a Time
(512) 844 - 5552
info@duhonelectric.com
Bonded and Insured
Master Electrician License # TECL 26523
DUHON ELECTRIC
www.duhonelectric.com
Serving Austin with quality electrical work for 15 years.

ALLANDALE SPECIALIST and Resident
JASON HEFFRON Owner/Broker
jason@juicehomes.com | 512.658.8822

ALLANDALE AREA 2014 YTD PROPERTY SALES IN REVIEW

	2013	2014
TOTAL TRANSACTIONS	43	41
AVG LIST PRICE	$423,905	$469,204
AVG SALES PRICE	$422,714	$466,896
AVG DAYS ON MARKET	19 DAYS	28 DAYS
AVG SIZE HOME	1922 SQ FT	1916 SQ FT

All statistics & square footage are from Austin MLS for single family residence as of June 30, 2014. For detailed market information about your home contact Jason Heffron, Broker.

100% AUSTIN JUICE REAL ESTATE

JUICEHOMES.COM

Gullett Good News

Debbie Trominski

Gullett is a school like no other place and the Geckos are ready to kick off the 2014-2015 school year in style beginning with the Skateland Back-to-School Party on Thursday, August 21. The event runs from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come show off your awesome skating skills.

The first day of school is Monday, August 25, and the Friday before that is the always-exciting Meet the Teacher event. From 11:00-1:00 on August 22, stop by to meet your teacher and get familiar with your new classroom. Be sure to stop by the PTA's Popsicle social in the cafeteria during Meet the Teacher. All are welcome to come by to learn more about Gullett's fantastic PTA and how you can be involved in making our school the best it can be. It's also a great way for the kiddos to reacquaint themselves with their old buddies before classes begin again.

Back-to-School Night will be on Wednesday, September 3. This is an important event that parents won't want to miss. Parents gather in their child's classroom and learn about the teacher, curriculum and other important details of their child's day-to-day experience as a student.

And for a dose of big fun, it's not too early to begin planning for the Fall Carnival, which will take place from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 25. This event is open to everyone near and far, and there will be activities for all ages including small child-friendly games so that Geckos-to-be can begin forming fond memories of Gullett before they reach kindergarten. Hilarious favorites such as the haunted house and giant hamster balls will be better than ever before. Will the cake walk reward more than 1000 cupcakes again? Come find out! Gullett alumni (that's you, middle and high schoolers) are encouraged to volunteer. Local businesses, you are invited too. 400+ families would love for you to sell, sample food, or host a game or informational booth. For any questions or more information about Fall Carnival, contact Laura Beck, *laura@stripedshirt.com.*

As a reminder, Gullett can benefit from your online shopping sprees. As back-to-school shopping reaches its crescendo and rolls in to holiday shopping, please remember to use the *Amazon.com* link that gives 4-8% of your purchase expenditures to the Gullett PTA. When you visit Amazon simply go to the site via this link: *http://www.amazon.com/?tag=gulletgeckos-20* (Note only one 't' in 'gullet'). Bookmark it! Anyone can use this link – so pass it on to all your friends and family who love Gullett and its Geckos. More information about Amazon School Rewards is available on Gullett's website at *GullettGeckos.com.*

Upcoming Events:

August 21, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.: Back-to-School Skate Party
August 22, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.: Meet the Teacher, PTA Popsicle Social
August 25: First day of classes. Tardy bell at 7:45!
September 1: Labor Day (no school)
September 3: Back-to-School Night and One Day Book Fair
October 8: Preen yourself, it's fall picture day
October 13: Parent-teacher conference day (no school for kids)
October 25, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m.: Fall Carnival ❖

Neighbor Spotlight: Strong Future Ahead for McCallum Football Thanks to Allandale Youth

Brandon Faught

From Pop Warner to the Friday Night Lights of House Park, the football tradition in Allandale runs deep. For some of Allandale's young men football has been a way of life since their playground days at Gullett Elementary and they are carrying that way of life on to the field at McCallum this fall. A strong core of Allandale's youth have been playing football with each other on the same team since the fourth grade and have continued to play together as a team through middle school and now onto McCallum. The dedication and love for the game has paid off for this group of boys. After a rough first season with West Austin Pop Warner the football boys stuck it out and returned as a team again the following year to become the only team in the organization to make it into the playoffs. With the majority of that team moving on to Lamar Middle School, they went undefeated, beating schools that had a population twice their size, to become the AISD City Champions in 2012. After another successful season and another Zone Championship under their belts in 2013, the core group of Allandale players is moving onto McCallum this coming fall where they hope to continue their success on and off the field.

Although you may not see these incoming freshman playing under the Friday night lights at House Park with the Varsity Team this season, their presence is sure to be felt in the years to come. McCallum's freshman football coach said, "This is the

David Starry, Broker

June–July Allandale Home Sales

Average Sold Price: $503,420.00

Average Price / Square Foot: $288.44

Maximize Your Home's Value & Sell It Fast

Direct Line 512-423-4000

David@RealVisionProperties.com

REALVISION PROPERTIES

group of boys we have had our eye on for a long time," and new McCallum Head Football Coach Charles Taylor said he is, "Excited about the future of the football program."

These players from Allandale have done great things in their young football careers so far and have no intentions of letting up. They plan to carry on their tradition of excellence in high school and represent Allandale and McCallum in the State High School Playoffs. Incoming freshman JB Faught said, "I don't think people realize how hard we have worked as a team to get where we are. We practice all year long and work really hard in the off season to get better."

Fall and football are just around the corner and soon the lights will be on again and the sounds of the crowd and the band will fill the hot Friday night air in Austin, Texas, as these young men represent their community on the field. The season kicks off Friday August 28 at 7:30, when it's McCallum versus Anderson for the Taco Shack Bowl at House Park. ❖

McCallum 2014 Varsity Football Schedule:

Thu	08/28/14	07:30 PM	Anderson Trojans
Thu	09/04/14	07:30 PM	Lehman Lobos
Fri	09/12/14	07:30 PM	McCallum Knights Varsity
Fri	09/19/14	07:30 PM	McCallum Knights Varsity
Fri	09/26/14	07:30 PM	Lanier Vikings
Fri	10/10/14	07:30 PM	McCallum Knights Varsity
Thu	10/16/14	07:30 PM	Bastrop Bears
Fri	10/24/14	07:30 PM	McCallum Knights Varsity
Fri	10/31/14	07:30 PM	Travis Rebels
Thu	11/06/14	07:30 PM	Cedar Creek Eagles

Rover Ants

Wizzie Brown

Rover ants are tiny (about 1/16 of an inch long) and brownish-black. They have nine antennal segments, which differentiates them from many other ants, but you'll need a good hand lens or microscope to count antennal segments. The abdomen of rover ants is pudgy and the ants have a "humpbacked" appearance.

For great photos you can go to the following site: *http://myrmecos.wordpress.com/2008/05/27/rover-ants-brachymyrmex-patagonicus-an-emerging-pest-species/.*

Colonies, or nests, are small and have a single queen. They can occur inside structures in places such as wall voids, usually in areas of moisture (kitchen, bathrooms and near plumbing leaks). Outdoors, people often find the ants nesting under and/or inside flower pots, under stones and landscape timbers, or running quickly up and down patio furniture or other vertical surfaces.

Worker ants will often be seen foraging on plants, and are often mistakenly identified as damaging the plant. The workers are tending honeydew excreted by insects such as aphids, mealybugs, whiteflies and scale insects. Controlling the honeydew-producing insects in the landscape can help cut down on ant problems.

The ants can be somewhat difficult to manage since they don't respond well to most solid baits. They do appear to take liquid baits fairly well. Sprays should not be used to treat for rover ants since this can split the colony up and make the ants more difficult to manage.

For more information or help with identification, contact Wizzie Brown, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service Program Specialist at 512-854-9600. Also check out *www.urban-ipm.blogspot.com.* ❖

Lamar Fest--Save the Date: Friday, November 7th!

make the move in 2013 realty/austin

Chad Proctor,
REALTOR® and Allandale Resident

Austin's Hottest Real Estate Company!
Let me show you what all the buzz is about with no obligation. For a free Market Analysis on your Allandale Home or to receive free email updates of all Allandale listings as they hit the market, call **512.870.7292** or email **chadproctor@realtyaustin.com** today!

Visit all Allandale area listings online at **AllandaleLiving.com**

Chad Proctor
REALTOR®
chadproctor@realtyaustin.com
512.870.7292

Allandale's 4th of July

More parade pics can be found on our website, www.allandaleneighbor.com

What a great parade, and such fantastic neighborhood participation. Below is the full list of categories and winners. See you all next year!

Animals/Pets:
1. Stars & Stripes aka Tembo & Zoloft (Andrew & Katey Levihn)
2. George & Marlin (Lisa Sunden)
3. Elvis (with Ellie Loudermilk)
4. Sally the Cochin Chicken (with Yesenia Stoebner)

Antique/Classic Vehicles:
1. 1970 Ford 100: Damian Duhon
2. Ford Model A Roadster: Garry & Angie Wilkison
3. 1926 Model T Truck: Bill Stephens

Bicycles-Group:
1. Tristen Diaz & Elise Howell
2. Skyler & Taylor See

Bicycles-Solo:
1. Anne Franklin
2. Cole Davis
3. Brock Davis

Floats:
1. Yellowpine is the Coolest Street in Allandale: Kelly Crook et al.
2. John Deere Ice Cream Maker: Joe Morris
3. Austin Classical School: Cici Scott et al.

Scooters/Skateboards:
1. Linnea Bieri
2. Owen Nink
3. Soleil Fullinck

Strollers & Tricycles
1. Hannah Ash
2. Amelia & Juliana Turner
3. Jane, Guineveve & Linda Long

Wagons
1. Red, White & Bling: the Parsons
2. God Bless America: Constance "Pepper" Bonafair
3. Yard Wagon: Brevin Parks

y Parade

Continued from front page

Walkers-Group

1. Defending the Stars & Stripes Forever: Andrew, Bill, Paula & Sophie Levihn-Coon; Kate Spiesman; Katey Levihn; & Charles Yu
2. Russells of 1776: Abigail, Caroline, Catherine, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Julia& Margaret Russell
3. Allandale Red, White & Tutus: Patricia Lynch et al.

Walkers-Solo

1. Kate Ahrens
2. Jenna Nattinger
3. Ellie Loudermilk

President's Choice Awards

1. The Pinta, the Niña, the Santa Maria & the Mayflower: Kathie, Scout, Richard & Willow Goldsmith
2. John Deere Ice Cream Maker: Joe Morris
3. Yellowpine is the Coolest Street in Allandale: Kelly Crook et al. ❖

JOIN ANA

ROCK 'n ROLL
RENTALS
New Location Coming Soon!

8335 Burnet Road, ATX 78757
Rent it! Like it! Buy it!
Instruments, PA Systems, Karaoke Machines,
Lighting, Fog Machines, Recording, Video & DJ Gear!
www.rocknrollrentals.com

www.TCPhouses.com
We're your
Allandale neighbor.
TCP
Real Estate
512-356-9393
TCP Real Estate, Inc

Our Social Allandale

Jennifer Paris

A few months ago, I started looking around for a way to connect with my neighbors— so I could find out about neighborhood meetings, our local real estate issues, and to see what else was going on out there among us. After all, I have owned a home in our lovely neighborhood for 17 years and have never even been to an ANA meeting (other than the meetings to hear about Walmart). But where to start?

First I googled Allandale Neighborhood Association and found my way onto the website *http://www.allandaleneighbor.com*. Wellah!!! The website is fantastic! There are very recent articles and notices about happenings (that have not yet passed), a long list of web links and neighborhood informational resources, and absolutely no "last updated 2010" stale website posts that you'd see on sites that were thrown together in the midst of a long-past neighborhood project. This site is ALIVE!! And even better, it links to other parts of the city (such as District 7).

In fact, I went to the District 7 website *www.austindistrict7.org* from the ANA site. WOW— who knew that the entire city is in the process of rewriting its zoning codes (or possibly throwing out the good parts, could be another way to say it). Well, now I knew about the CodeNext project (which you can read more about here *www.austintexas.gov/codenext*), and amazingly, I decided to submit an editorial about it to the District 7 website. More amazingly, the editor decided to help me with the article and publish it!

Afterwards, I even went to an ANA meeting about CodeNext (thanks to an ANA EC member who reached out to me)! I met several neighbors there and, as usual in our lovely neighborhood, they were very friendly, smart, and engaging. No one was messing around over there. We were working on "the big plan!"

Now, I'm an introvert, but social media (and the internet in general) affords even introverts like me a way to express my views and seek out others. Meeting new people in person to me is very intimidating, but when I can corral my words and read my own voice, the confidence comes right along. But how confident had I become?

I joined the Yahoo Groups/Allandale Neighbor listserv (available through the ANA website). I was going to MEET SOME NEIGHBORS (wow for the introvert). But hold on … OUR list serve is not for novices! Ohhhh no. With (at the time) about 1250 users on the list, several thread posts a day, and neighbors who run the gambit from original Allandalers to renters to college students to local business owners, the listserv is a dangerous place for opinionated introverts like me. People say whatever is on their minds here. Some even argue. Right there in email for 1250 viewers to see. (Later I was schooled by a frequent commenter that the arguers mostly know each other, and the arguments were much friendlier than they first appeared.) Regardless, I went on ahead and said things. I upset some people (because I am opinionated) but I also privately met four actual neighbors for my efforts— and I even met two of them … <wait for it> … IN PERSON. :-o

I was now fully involved: An article, an ANA meeting and (without formal organization) two live neighbors! And they even live on other streets than I do. Where else are there neighbors? Is Yahoo Groups the only place??

"Facebook is Evil" (but some of us really like it anyway!)

ANA has a Facebook page! Using your Facebook search tools, just look for Allandale Neighborhood Association, or just put this in your web browser *www.facebook.com/allandaleATX*. ANA puts official ANA information not only on the list serve but also on its FB (facebook) posts. Because the page is a location, LIKE the page and you will receive the ANA posts. There is also a place where you can put your own comments and start your own conversations, but the ANA posts are set to prevail (go to the top) which is a very thoughtful set-up for those who want "just the facts."

And What Else is There?

Searching for Allandale will also bring you a few user groups. There is a user group for Allandale Shoal Creek (for folks living along the creek or who just enjoy the creek and want to keep it nice) and a user group called Allandale Society which is for informal chatting and experience sharing (truth be told: I started the Allandale Society group before realizing ANA had a FB page). And guess what? ANYONE can create a group and invite neighbors.

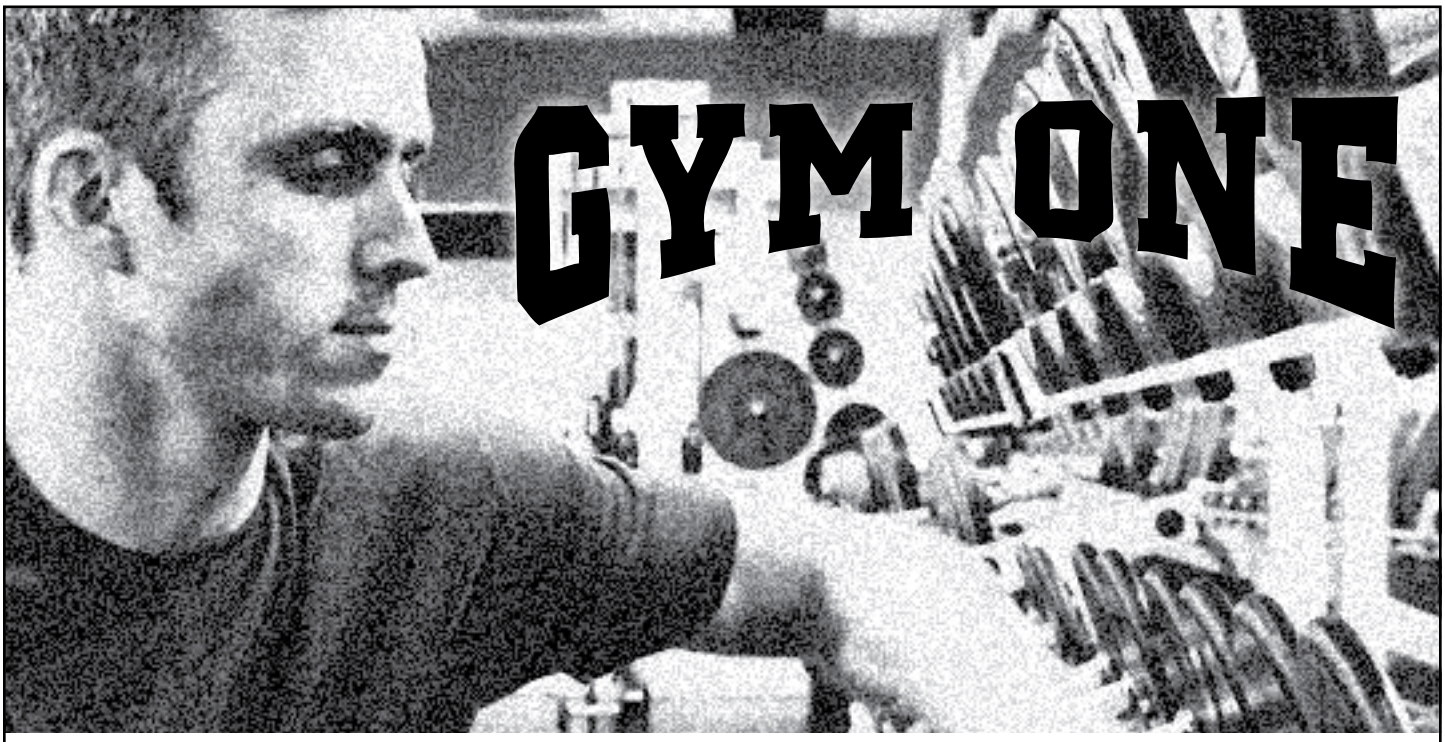
Nextdoor and Other Apps

There is also an "app" (mobile phone application, but you can access it through your computer too) called NEXTDOOR which specializes in social media for neighborhood connections. Basically, it's a more controlled Facebook application (that requires some address verification) for people who live in the same neighborhood or in nearby neighborhoods. Allandale, like all neighborhoods, is accessible there, but personally I use it to see what is going on elsewhere, like in the nearby neighborhoods. And I can't help but go ahead and converse there a few times too. WARNING: This site has some of the same back and forth as we do in our listserv, however, comments are not generally restricted to your own neighborhood.

United We Stand

Wherever you like to chat and get news, you are a part of a very wonderful society. Of course you know this because you live here. People in our neighborhood are kind and thoughtful, opinionated and active, and helpful and sharing. The day after we had the "mini-tornado," all kinds of posts for people helping each other went up all over our electronic worlds. So, join up! Hook up, extravert yourself (or introvert yourself by just watching and writing), and meet your neighbors wherever you find them! I am so glad that I did - introverted public embarrassment and all. :-) <—- and don't forget the smiley - it helps when you're in a vigorous debate ;0 ❖

JOIN ANA! A membership form is located on the back of this newsletter.
You can also find a paypal link on our website, www.allandaleneighbor.com



Our locally owned fitness facility offers a wide selection of equipment for all your gym needs. Our Pricing is Simple.
We have No Gimmicks & No Contracts.

3300 West Anderson Lane, Suite 301 | 512-459-6165 | email: info@gym-one.com | www.gym-one.com

Neighborhood Watch

Laura DiCarlo

We have had three Burglary of residences (BORs) and 16 burglary of vehicles (BOVs) since the June newsletter. Despite the fact that people posting on Nextdoor Allandale recently had a heated discussion about burglaries and homeless folks, these stats are not any higher than usual, and in fact three BORs in a two-month period is actually pretty low.

Other Neighborhood Watch news since the June newsletter has included a commander's forum, tagging in Allandale, an update on the high-end bike burglaries, noise issues at Northwest Park, thefts on the Shoal Creek Boulevard/Hancock island and at Northwest Park/Pool, discussion on the listserv about security systems and harassment, a Neighborhood Watch table at the Fourth of July parade, and a block captain training. By the time this article is published a Citizen Led Austin Safety Partnership (CLASP) informational forum regarding ways to reduce property crime will have taken place as well.

I use Krimelabb to research crimes in Allandale to prepare monthly reports for the ANA Executive Committee and to write bi-monthly Neighborhood Watch articles. *Krimelabb.com* is a fabulous website that lists all APD police reports, and I can search for Allandale using this link: *www.krimelabb.com/_basic/view/v_neighborhood.php*. Everything from auto thefts, harassment, DWIs, credit card abuse, graffiti, deceased, criminal mischief, possession of drugs, trespassing, shoplifting, family disturbance, and more is listed. I focus on the BORs and BOVs as well as thefts that occur within our residential area. There are always incidences of shoplifting and BOVs at 2525 West Anderson Lane and on businesses along Burnet Road, but what I see as most pertinent to our lives is not whether there was a check fraud that occurred at Walmart but if there was a home or car burglarized on one of our residential streets.

The two BORs occurred on Finley on June 27 and Shoal Creek Boulevard on July 15. The break in on SCB was especially brazen because it occurred on a weekday between the hours of 10:30 and noon. The victim had been working from home and left for just an hour and a half, which would indicate either very lucky timing or that the perpetrators were watching the house. The burglars broke in through the back/side window, stole three laptops and jewelry, placed the items in a laundry hamper, threw a sheet over the hamper and walked out the side door, which was facing Lawnmont. This technique has been seen in neighborhoods across Austin (and I'm sure the country) for years. They probably knocked on the front door and, after making sure no one was home, went around the back where they couldn't be seen breaking in. Please be vigilant– if you ever see people you do not know with baskets of belongings, call 911. In addition, make sure your valuables cannot be seen from a window, that all windows and doors are locked, and that doors have three-inch screws in the strike plates.

The BOVs occurred on Northland, Foster Lane, West Frances Place, Silvercrest Drive, Ardath, North Loop, Shoal Creek Boulevard, Allandale Road, Cascade Drive, and Westfield. I spoke to Detective Ralph Johnson, who is investigating two of the BOVs, and he said that

2GROW LANDSCAPE

Tracy Aridt-Sherman
Cell: 512-431-5620
tracy@2growaustin.com

www.2growaustin.com

- Design
- Installation
- Maintenance
- Outdoor lighting
- Hard-scape
- Tree Work
- Drainage
- Irrigation LIC 15558

Serving Allandale for over 18 years

he was unsure whether the vehicles had been left unlocked. He reiterated that the most important thing is to hide valuables and don't give perpetrators anything to steal. He also suggested wiping off surfaces in a car before exiting, so if a theft occurs, prints taken won't be just yours!

There were two BOVs reported at 7000 Ardath, which is Northwest Park and Pool. It is especially important to hide valuables there because perpetrators watch for people to get out of their cars and head to the pool, leaving their wallets and purses in their vehicles.

To give an update on the high-end bike burglaries: a resident in the downtown/east Austin area captured video on his home security camera of a man stealing four bicycles. The footage of the perpetrator, who is probably about 5'5" and 140 pounds, was originally posted on Craigslist on July 4, with the promise of a $500 reward in return for information leading to an arrest and return of the bikes. Steven Mullins, an Allandale block captain who has been helping gather information on the high-end bicycle burglaries, added that there have been no reports of additional burglaries since the posting of the video, and that several thousand dollars have since been offered in reward from private citizens and businesses close to the incidents.

The noise issues at Northwest Park had to do with partiers that were not approached by APD after calls were made, and a review of procedure was conducted due to the lack of follow-through.

The thefts on the Shoal Creek Boulevard / Hancock island were of two yard lights and a metal goat, on July 15.

Harassment occurred on Great Northern Boulevard on July 22.

What exactly is the Citizen led Austin Safety Partnership (CLASP) forum? In its own words:

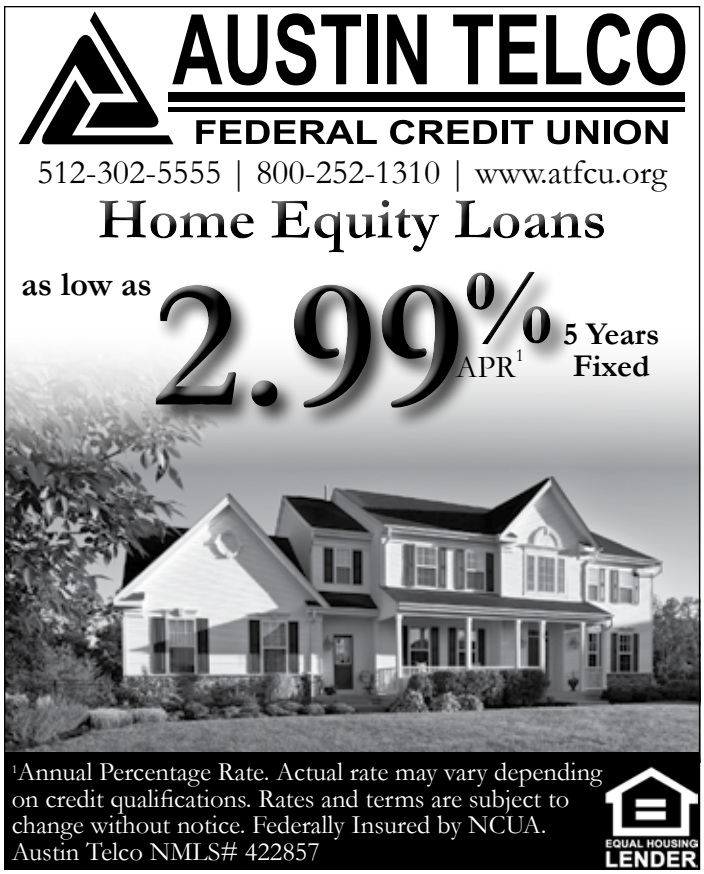
> *CLASP is a non-partisan group dedicated to encouraging and sustaining a neighborhood watch network to provide opportunities for skill building and to fostering collaborative relationships with law enforcement in an effort to develop a model of citizen led community policing initiatives in Austin.*

At the writing of this article the forum has not occurred yet but is to focus on ways people can harden the target. Speakers will be from the Greater Austin Crime Commission and CLASP board.

National Night Out will be the first Tuesday evening in October (the seventh) and will occur before our next newsletter is published. Contact me at *lhdicarlo@yahoo.com* or 512-529-1701 if you are interested in helping with a party, becoming a block captain, patrol, or graffiti remover. Call 911 if you want an officer to come immediately or 311 to report a crime after it has occurred. Please always keep in mind that Neighborhood Watch is about getting to know our neighbors and creating an environment that is friendly and relaxed– it's not about being alarmist and fearful.

The next Commander's Forum will be held Tuesday, October 14 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at McCallum High, 5600 Sunshine Drive. ❖

ALLANDALE NEIGHBORHOOD CAN BE FOUND ON FACEBOOK: WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ALLANDALEATX



Universal Design Workshop

The theory of universal design posits that the built environment—and all the products within it—should be equally usable to all, regardless of age, life status, or physical abilities. This workshop will address how you can apply universal design in the context of your own home.

CG AND S DESIGN-BUILD

Find Out How to Build
Spaces That Work For Everyone

August 23, 2014

More Info and RSVP at www.CGSDB.com

Dog Talk: Brain Tumors– Maybe Not!
Also, Updated Info about Leptospirosis Vaccine

Cheryl Silver csilver2@austin.rr.com 512-454-7219

This is a two-part article– the topics are unrelated. But they are both medically related so I want to remind everyone that I am not a medical or veterinary specialist– what I am sharing should always be discussed with your veterinarian. I am drawing on information that others have shared with me and on my own personal experience of over 19 years working with dogs, much of the time on behavioral issues, in the context of rescue.

In the case of my own dogs, when they are "out of sorts," my husband accuses me of "awful-izing" –coming to the conclusion that whatever is going on is of the most dire nature. So, all of my dog experience doesn't keep me from an extreme reaction, like so many of you reading this.

People call or write me when they run into puzzling and distressing behavioral issues in their dog. The behavior that generally triggers the call is the emergence of hostile/aggressive behavior by a dog that has only ever been loving and trustworthy. Families become frightened and desperate when their beloved dog bares her teeth and snaps at them or even bites. When they call they typically start by saying that they believe their dog has a brain tumor and then they detail the incident(s), Sometimes they have taken the dog to a trainer who determines the dog to be intractable and suggests a brain tumor is the cause of the behavior.

The good news is that I happen to have seen so much of this that most of the time I am able to convince them to have the dog's thyroid tested (assuming the answers to the questions I pose to them point in that direction). The best test runs about $100.00. It's good news when the results show the dog to be hypothyroid, because the medication given for the condition is very inexpensive and within a few days dramatic changes in the dog's behavior occur. Voila! No brain tumor.

How about another "brain tumor" scenario? In the past month two families have contacted me about adoption … they each told me of the loss of their beloved older dog to a brain tumor. They were distressed by what they were seeing so they opted to euthanize their senior dog– no testing had actually been done to confirm the presence of a brain tumor.

In both instances the dogs were manifesting similar behaviors. The dogs suddenly began staggering, falling, walking in circles, and holding their heads tilted to one side, struggling to eat, drink or potty and being generally distressed.

I never met these dogs, but I know of many similar incidents. In some instances the families were fortunate to have gone to their veterinarian and to have a veterinari-

Continued on page 21

Arwen Air Mechanical
PAWS-ITIVELY COOL

A/C & Heating
Sales and Service for
Residential &
Commercial

512.888.1131

Mention this ad to have the
$40 diagnostic fee waived with repairs

ArwenAirMechanical@hotmail.com | FACEBOOK: ArwenAir
Lic #: TACLA00059423E

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING? We have reasonable rates! allandaleneighbor@gmail.com

Sibyl Dyke
CRS®, CLHMS®, ABR®, SRES®
Broker Associate
512-689-4083
sibyl@sibyldyke.com

Your Allandale Neighbor

It's a good time to sell - Prices are high.

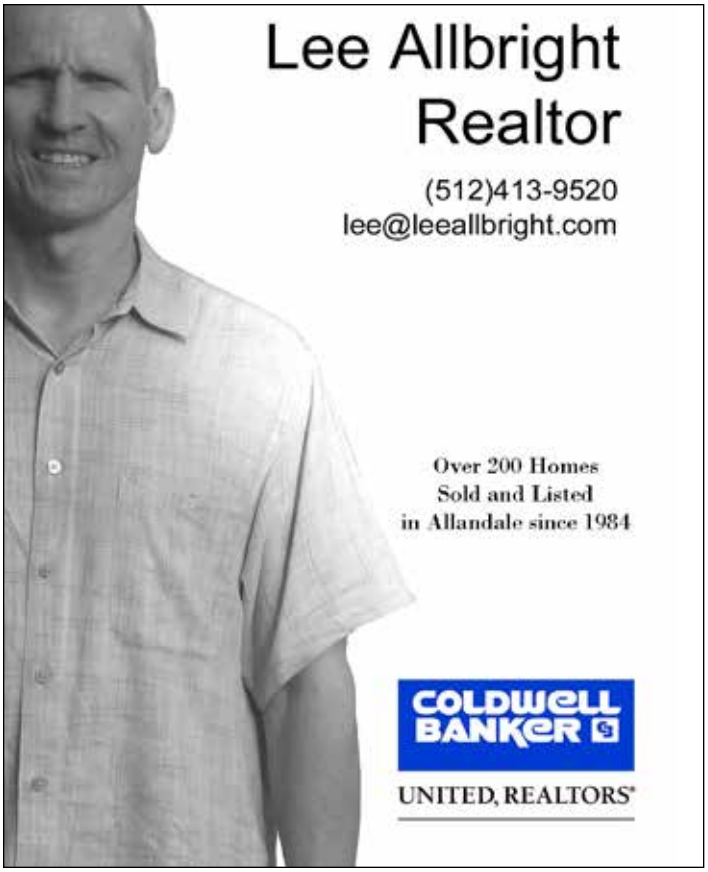
It's a good time to buy - Interest rates are low.

I represent both sellers and buyers. Call me to discuss your real estate needs.

Let me put my experience to work for you!

Covert Ingersoll PROPERTIES

Selling Austin Homes for 35 years
www.sibyldyke.com
www.CovertingersollProperties.com



Lee Allbright
Realtor
(512)413-9520
lee@leeallbright.com

Over 200 Homes
Sold and Listed
in Allandale since 1984

COLDWELL BANKER
UNITED, REALTORS®

ELITE COMPUTING
512-670-3262
TIRED OF THE GEEKS AND NERDS? CALL ELITE COMPUTING!

Established in 1998

*On-site or In-shop Service
*Virus & Spyware removal
*Custom Built Computers & Upgrades
*Networking - Wired & Wireless
*Website Design
*Data Recovery
*Windows XP Upgrade Solutions

Visit us online at www.ecoa.us - email sales@ecoa.us
2700 W Anderson Ln. Ste 309 - Austin, TX 78757
IN THE VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER BEHIND THE GOODNIGHT

Mention this ad for 20% Discount

KIDS EAT FREE

ALL DAY. EVERY DAY. ALL SUMMER LONG.

Come in June 1st thru August 31st and Kids under 12 will receive one complimentary meal from our kid's menu with the purchase of one full priced adult entree.

DINE IN ONLY. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS.

34TH STREET CAFE
34thstreetcafe.com
1005 W. 34th St.
512 371-3400

gusto italian kitchen + wine bar
gustoitaliankitchen.com
4800 Burnet Road
512 458-1100

BLUE STAR Cafeteria
bluestarcafeteria.com
4800 Burnet Rd. C-300
512 454-STAR (7827)

SANTA★RITA TEX MEX CANTINA
santaritacantina.com
5900 W. Slaughter Ln. 288.5100
1206 W. 38th St. 419-RITA

Dog Talk

Continued from page 18

an who diagnosed the condition as peripheral geriatric vestibular syndrome or "old age" vestibular syndrome. The veterinarian will often treat the symptoms, e.g., medicate the dog to reduce the nausea caused by the dizziness, etc. This is actually a condition that has an immediate and dramatic onset and looks frightening but is usually related to an inner ear problem. The dog typically recovers within a matter of days, other times within a matter of weeks, and usually the dog returns to their old self. Voila! No brain tumor.

Quite honestly, the families are sometimes so distressed at seeing their poor dog struggling that they opt to euthanize. I feel the lesson here is to spend some time with your veterinarian asking about the potential conditions that could be causing your dog's behavior and asking about the differential diagnosis to explain what is being seen. Of course, some dogs do have brain tumors and your veterinarian can help you with that diagnosis and a care plan.

I do want to mention that hypothyroidism manifests if many different ways– aggressive behavior is just one possible manifestation. Other possible manifestations may be lethargy, skin issues, recurrent ear infections, thinning hair, obesity despite being fed minimal food, joint and muscle pain, and heat-seeking behavior. Most dogs will just have one or two symptoms.

Leptospirosis Vaccination

This is a very brief update on this vaccine that was provided by my veterinarian who understands that my dogs like to chase squirrels in the yard and that we live near a park. Leptospirosis is a bacterial infection spread through the urine of rodents, raccoons, possums, etc. If their infected urine gets into a water source and your dog drinks from it, infection is possible and it is quite serious– life-threatening. Ponds, outside water bowls, water-gardens, incidental standing water, tanks, etc. are possible sources of infection. Squirrels are a serious vector and in Allandale we are over-run with squirrels.

There has been a long-standing acknowledgment that the vaccine was ineffective and possibly even dangerous to the dog. A relatively new vaccine developed by Pfizer has changed this impression. My veterinarian informed me that the Pfizer vaccine protects against the actual varieties of bacteria we are likely to find here in central Texas and that they have had no adverse reactions to this vaccine.

I am now going to actually vaccinate my dogs, but it is important that everyone understand that the vaccine should not be given at the same time other vaccines are given … there should be a month between vaccines. The first of the series should be two shots given a month apart. After that the vaccine should be given annually, but just with one injection.

If any of this info is incorrect, it is my responsibility. That said, it is your responsibility to talk with your veterinarian before taking any steps regarding your dog's health. But this is a serious disease and I am hearing it is becoming increasingly prevalent. ❖

787 REALTY

We know Allandale

Call today for a Comparative Market Analysis!

Mason Quintana
REALTOR GRI &
Gullett Dad
(512) 740-8008

Visit **787-Realty.com** to search Allandale and surrounding areas.

SHERMAN & COMPANY, Realtors®

Austin ★ Kerrville

LesShermanRealEstate.com
Shermanco.com
512-947-8333 or 830-257-7588

LET'S GO SHOPPING!

If you are selling, I can help you sell your Allandale home and shop for your new home, anywhere in the U.S., before and/or during your listing, and save you money. If you are leasing, I can work around your lease to get you into your new home, in Allandale or anywhere in the U.S., and save you money." "Call me to discuss how I can help you save money whether you are buying or selling.

Les Sherman, Realtor®- 32 years in Austin, Texas
Selling/Advising and Helping Austin area Families and Investors make good decisions in Real Estate

"YOU GET MORE WITH LES!"

Before you hire anyone, you owe it to yourself to talk to Les and get straight answers and your best advice. Then make your choice.

CALL LES TODAY 512-947-8333

Sherman & Company, Realtors®
401 Congress Avenue, Ste. 1540, Austin, TX 78701
512-947-8333 mobile, 512-687-3474 office

Allandale Gardener: Planning for Fall (and Cooler Weather)

Ginger Soulé

Well here we are approaching the latter part of what has been a bearable summer. It's time to do some light pruning on fall flowering items such as bush roses (not climbers, which should be pruned right after they bloom in the spring), Greggii sage, and fall blooming asters. Ideally, we would do late summer pruning in mid-August, so if you haven't done so yet, do it now! Also give these items a light fertilization with a good organic low nitrogen fertilizer such as Ladybug 8-2-4 or Medina growing green granules. Then in September, you can help boost bloom by watering with Medina Hast-ta-Grow which contains phosphorous, a good promoter of both root growth and blooms. The reason I've not recommended a chemical fertilizer like Miracle-Gro is that it is a salt-based fertilizer. Although it appears to really boost growth and bloom at first few uses, salt-based fertilizers cause salt build up in soils which kills off the beneficial micro-organisms in the soil, and that will make your soil less and less healthy.

Perhaps you've never thought of the soil as more than something to hold you plants in place. Soil science has advanced wonderfully in recent years. Now we know how important it is to maintain good soil health because healthy soil promotes healthy plants with more resistance to pests and diseases.

Fall is an especially nice time to garden: we have fewer insect problems, our weather is usually more even-tempered, and it's more comfortable for the gardener. If you are interested in spring-flowering bulbs, my two favorite mail order companies are Brent & Becky's and McClure & Zimmerman. Both have excellent websites and both will mail you a catalog. If you decide to order bulbs, pay close attention to the plant zones where a particular bulb will grow. No company will refund your money for something that doesn't bloom because you ordered something unsuited for your area. If you're interested in growing vegetables, you'll get the best green beans and peppers in the fall. It is too late to set out new tomatoes or potatoes, however. Happy gardening everyone! ❖

Status Report: ANA's Legal Debt is Shrinking

Continued from front page

gift we can't afford to lose, so we sealed the deal with a $5,000 payment in December.

We turned to those who had contributed to the legal fund in the past, and 36 Allandalers responded generously with donations totaling $2,673. Then we reached out to the entire neighborhood, and thanks to $1,549 in contributions from 22 neighbors, we met our next milestone with a $4,222 payment in June.

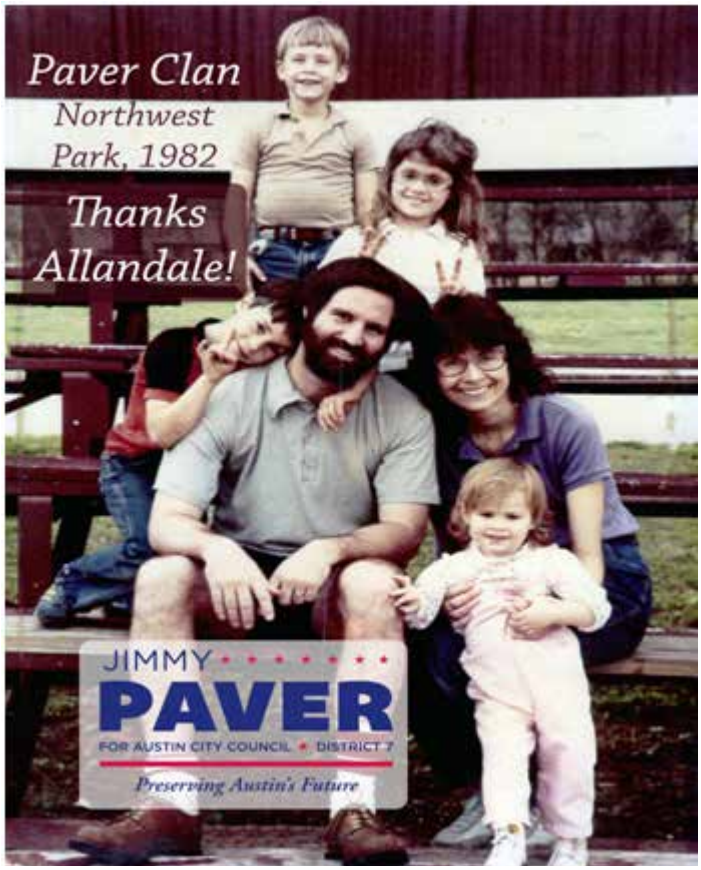
Now the finish line is within sight, with a little over a year left to make the final $5,778 payment. Please help us get there by sending your check—in any amount—to ANA Legal Fund, P.O. Box 10886, Austin, TX 78766. Or visit *www.allandaleneighbor.com* and click the "Donate" button to contribute via Pay Pal.

This is about so much more than putting an old lawsuit behind us. It's about balancing our efforts and funds on activities that build, mend, and protect our community—like the Fourth of July Parade, Shoal Creek greenbelt restoration, and Neighborhood Watch. There is enough energy and enthusiasm in Allandale to mobilize a steady stream of fun-filled events—in fact, stay tuned for something special this fall.

May our next status report read: ANA's Legal Debt is Paid in Full. ❖

JOIN ANA

SAVE THE DATE: National Night Out is Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2014, from 7 to 9 p.m. Such a fun night to gather Allandale together, start your planning now!



Celebrate Allandale: Love & Protect It.

The Allandale Neighborhood Association (ANA) depends on your annual membership & participation to stay a strong local group. Help us represent your interests by getting involved.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
E-mail _____

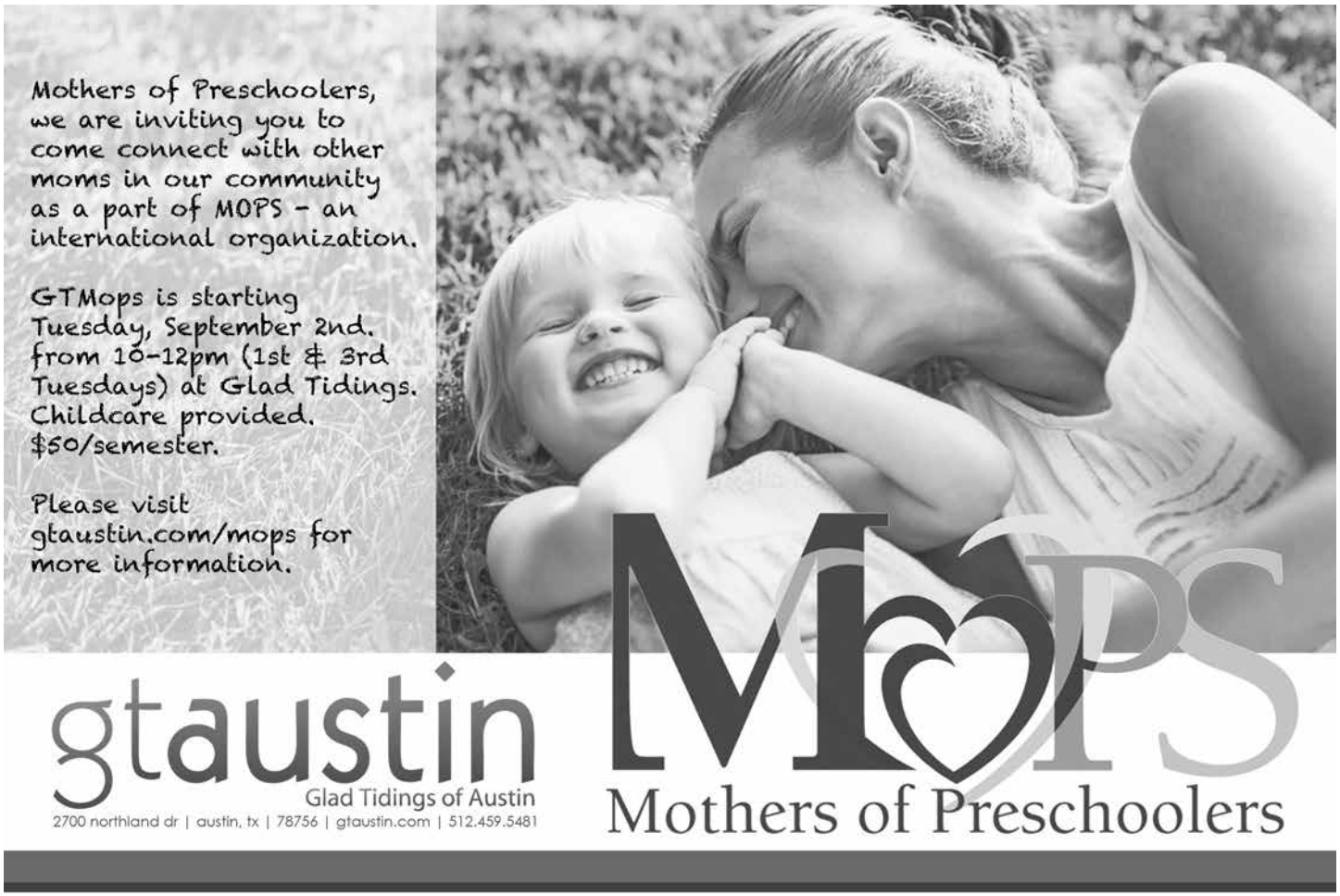
Membership rates: ❑ $15 per household, ❑ $7 senior rate
Please make checks payable to: ANA ■ PO Box 10886 ■ Austin, TX 78766-1886 ■ Or pay online at: *www.allandaleneighbor.com*

Allandale Neighborhood Association
PO Box 10886
Austin, TX 78766-1886

PRSRT STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

**********ECRWSS****

Postal Customer
Austin, TX

ANA General Membership Meeting: Come One, Come All!
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 3 | Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive

Budget, Bylaws, Executive Committee Election– just a few agenda items in September that require votes from ANA members. If your plan is to skip 11 neighborhood meetings this year, this is the one you don't want to miss. Haven't paid your 2014 dues? No worries, bring a check or cash ($15 per household or $7 age 55+) to pay on-site and take advantage of a four-month bonus! Dues paid on or after September 1 will extend your membership through the end of 2015.